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(54) Title: INTERNET ACCESS VIA NON-HOME SERVICE PROVIDERS

(57) Abstract

A system capable of granting Internet access to users (100) when direct connection to their usual home Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is impossible, impractical or prohibitively expensive. The system offers users (100) a unified method of login to other independent ISPs (102) to provide easy and inexpensive access to the Internet and its various services. The system validates user logins, generates billing data, provides usage time and monitors communication links. The system also isolates the shells of the servers of the ISPs (102) from the user (100) until such time as the user has been determined to be valid, thereby providing security to the ISPs (102) against unauthorized access to their servers. The system performs these tasks while requiring only a small amount of communication bandwidth for communication monitoring and billing.

